

# FIELD VISIT NOTE: INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (ICDS) AND BAAL AADHAAR

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## INTRODUCTION: ICDS SCHEME

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The scheme lays the foundation for psychological, physical and social development of the child. ICDS caters to a range of services including:

- Supplementary nutrition program (SNP)
- Pre-school non-formal education
- Nutrition & health education
- Immunization
- Health check-up
- Referral services



Nearly all the above services are provided through 13.5 lakh + Anganwadi centers (AWC) operating throughout the country. Anganwadi workers (AWWs) & helpers (AWHs) along with ASHA workers are primary deliverers of services at these centers. One of the prime objectives of ICDS Scheme is “to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation among various departments to promote child development”.

With the current saturation of Baal Aadhaar at less than 50%, the network of 13.5 lakh + AWCs in rural India along with a workforce of around 14 lakh AWWs and 13 lakh AWHs, provides an optimal opportunity to coordinate with ICDS associated infrastructure to increase Baal Aadhaar saturation. Village Health and Sanitation Committee meetings act as one such platform where key stakeholders (mentioned below) are present for disseminating information on and creating awareness regarding ICDS and Baal Aadhaar.

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## INTERACTION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

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The following are the key stakeholders in ICDS:

- DPO: District Planning/Program Officer (Nodal officer for UIDAI at District Level)
- CDPO: Child Development Project Officer
- ICDS Supervisors
- Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs)
- ASHA and ANM/GNM workers

Interactions with key stakeholders revealed that the process is at a nascent stage of 6 months into on-ground implementation. The process can broadly be classified into 3 Stages (Stage 1 has been completed and halfway through stage 2):

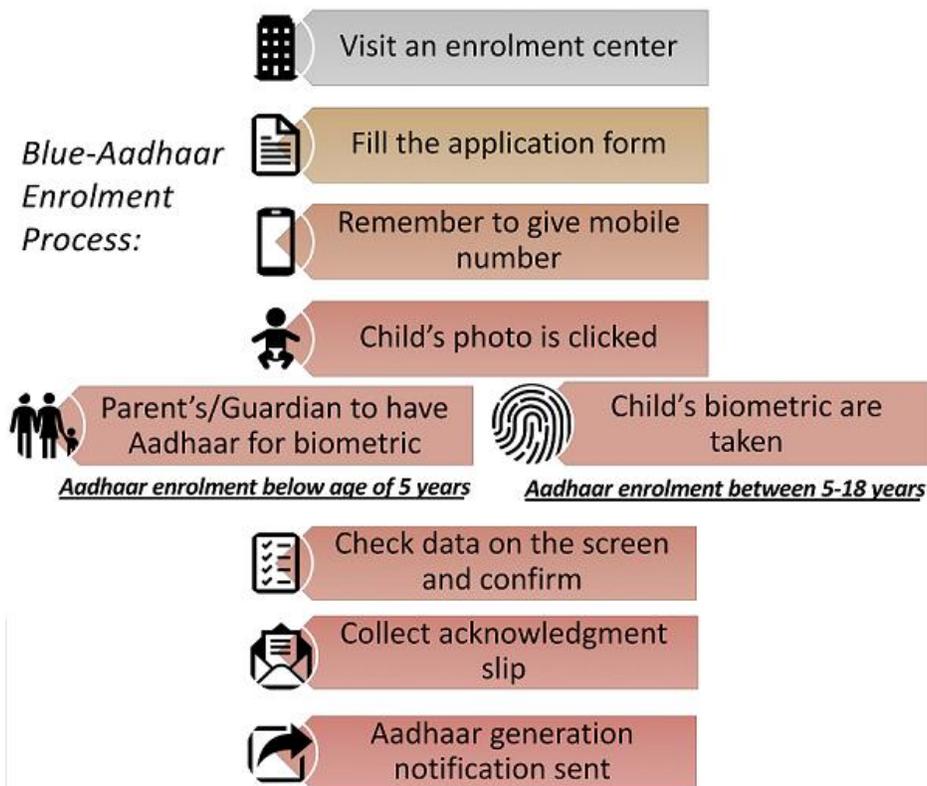
- Stage 1 (Preparation): This includes procurement of the necessary resources (mobile tablets, desktop computers, finger print scanner) and training of the AWWs.
- Stage 2 (Implementation): This includes on-ground enrolment
- Stage 3 (Evaluation and results): This encompasses evaluating the key objectives achieved and way forward for linking ICDS services with Aadhaar.

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## UNDERSTANDING ENROLLMENT PROCESS

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Each panchayat has on average 5 AWCs, 5 AWWs and 5 AWHs. Each AWC on average has 25 children enrolled along with one AWW. AWW undergoes the requisite training and she is responsible for coordinating with all the 5 AWCs for enrollments of (5\*25=125) children for Baal Aadhaar. The process is as illustrated below.



Each AWC is required to share a monthly report of the no. of children enrolled along with remaining number in the allotted area. One of the challenges faced during this stage is connectivity issue while enrolling children using the Child Enrolment Lite Client (CELC) mobile app along with software crash on occasions. Another issue that was identified was the absence of a localized helpline to answer AWW's queries, though a 2-day formal training is provided on how to enroll the children. Considering that the enrollment is an additional task assigned to an AWW, the incentive per enrollment seems not to be credited on time, leading to demotivation on part of the AWW.